

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE



*Bread Loaf
Writers' Conference*

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In the present plans for Bread Loaf, the College reserves the right to make any changes rendered inevitable by circumstances beyond its control.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

SAMUEL S. STRATTON, President of Middlebury College

STEPHEN A. FREEMAN, Vice-President of Middlebury College

THEODORE MORRISON, Director of the Writers' Conference

RICHARD L. BROWN, Assistant Director in charge of Admissions,
Writers' Conference

MARGARET L. HOPKINS, Secretary of the Summer Schools

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Writers' Conference

at Bread Loaf

August 13-27, 1952

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Writers and Education

A STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR

Writers, whether experienced or inexperienced, published or unpublished, may well approach any program of education with skepticism. I should advise them to do so. But I have yet to know a writer of any sort who did not need at some stage to expose his work in progress to someone else or to some group for response and comment. This is the heart of any opportunity that can be planned for writers to learn.

At Bread Loaf, the oldest writers' conference with the longest uninterrupted experience, we believe that we have acquired some wisdom over the years in planning and administering such an opportunity. Thanks to Middlebury College and the will of Joseph Battell, we have a physical setting—an old inn and surrounding cottages some fifteen hundred feet up in the Green Mountains—where ready interchange between staff and Conference members is natural and easy. Thanks to the early and lasting impression given by such people as Robert Frost, Edith Mirrielees, and Bernard DeVoto, we have, or should have, a solidly grounded teaching tradition addressed to the interests of writers. During our better than a quarter-century of activity, the staff has of course changed. There has been circulation and new blood. But over any period of years, we have been fortunate enough to keep a nucleus of the staff members in continuous or alternating service, and this has meant that the staff members educated each other and acquired pooled experience in trying to give both practical and educational assistance to writers.



STAFF, 1951

Standing: *Richard L. Brown, Lincoln Barnett, Rachel Mackenzie, Josephine Saxton, Richard Scowcroft, William Sloane.*
 In chairs: *Mrs. Pratt, Fletcher Pratt, Theodore Morrison, Wallace Stegner, Mrs. Stegner.*
 Seated on grass: *Mark Saxton, May Sarton, Mrs. Morrison, John Ciardi, Mrs. Ciardi, Mrs. Sloane*

All this, of course, even if true, may not be enough. Nothing can ensure writers against disappointments, often sharp and sometimes lethal ones. Bread Loaf is not predicated on any guarantee of success and dispenses no magic formula to spare application or drudgery. None the less, many words have gone forth from Bread Loaf, modified or unmodified, into print, and many of them distinguished words. And what should be counted as equally important, many people have felt themselves humanly enlarged and fortified by the experience of "the mountain." It is perhaps because the staff members themselves have learned and profited so much by the associations of Bread Loaf that they feel that others who are conscious of the need should be able to do so too. —THEODORE MORRISON

The Staff

In Fiction

JESSAMYN WEST, short story writer and novelist, author of *The Friendly Persuasion*, *The Witch Diggers*, etc.

WILLIAM SLOANE, publisher and novelist. President, William Sloane Associates; author of *The Edge of Running Water*, etc.

RACHEL MACKENZIE, contributor of short stories to *Harper's*, *New Yorker*, *Woman's Day*, *Good Housekeeping*, etc. Bread Loaf fellow, 1948 and staff member, 1951.

ERIC P. SWENSON, Trade Editor, W. W. Norton & Co.; author of a life of Captain Cook, contributor to *Harper's* and *Reader's Digest*.

In Non-Fiction Prose

FLETCHER PRATT, author of articles, biography, history, syndicated columns, science fiction. Bread Loaf staff member since 1938.

LINCOLN BARNETT, journalist, contributor to *Life*, *New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Ladies Home Journal*, etc.; author of *The Universe and Dr. Einstein* and of *Writing on Life*.

In Poetry

JOHN CIARDI, author of *Other Skies*, *Live Another Day*, editor of *Mid-Century American Poets*, Executive Editor of Twayne Publishers, Inc.



Conversation on the Front Porch

Evening Speakers

Besides talks by members of the teaching staff, evenings will include:
A reading by ROBERT FROST.

A talk by FRANK O'CONNOR, one of the best known contemporary masters of the short story.

A talk by JOHN FISCHER, author of *Why They Behave Like Russians*, editor, General Book Department, Harper & Brothers.

Music by the staff musician, ROWLAND STURGES, who studied with NADIA BOULANGER, teaches at the Longy School of Music, Cambridge, Mass., and has given concerts in Brazil as well as in this country.

Director of the Conference

THEODORE MORRISON, English Department, Harvard University; author of *The Devious Way*, *The Portable Chaucer*, *The Dream of Alcestris*, etc.

Assistant Director

RICHARD L. BROWN, English Department, Middlebury College.

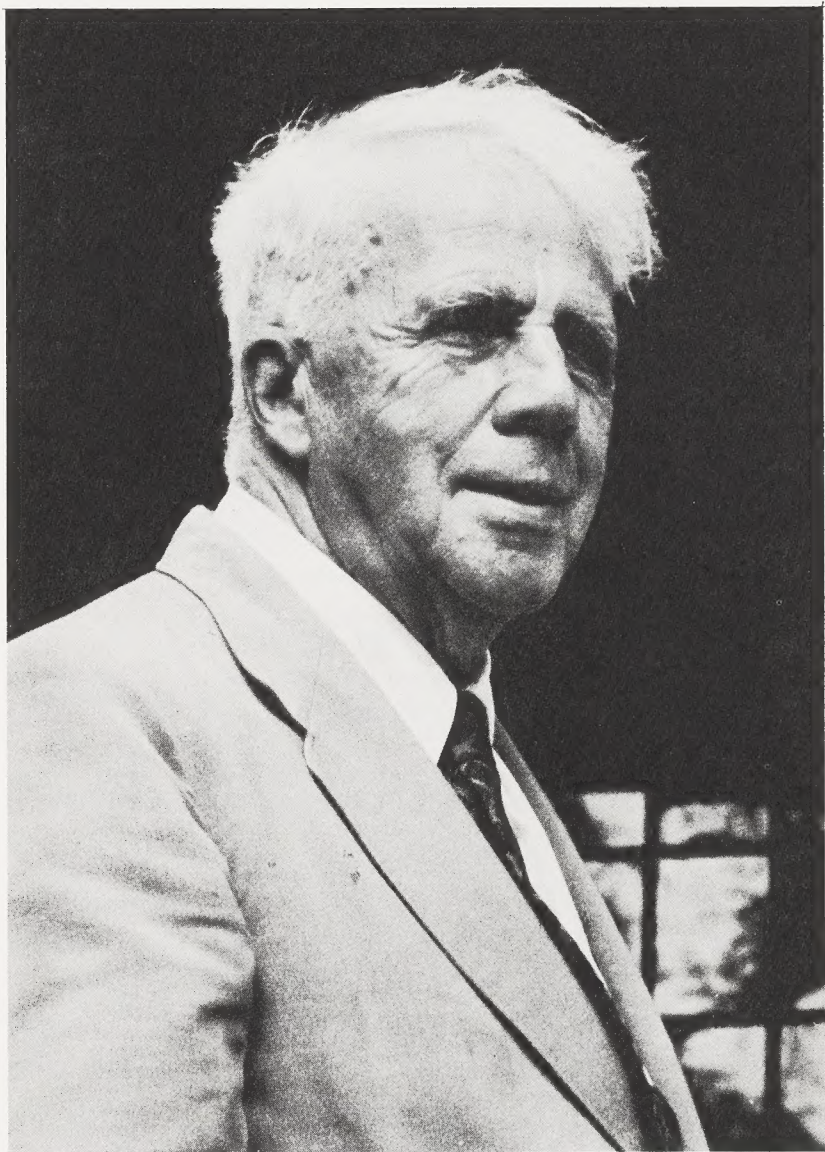


Little Theatre

Life at Bread Loaf

Plan of the Day Morning sessions of the Conference begin at 9:00 or 9:30 and continue, with brief interludes, until shortly before lunch. A session after lunch is customary on weekdays except Saturdays. An evening lecture or entertainment is customary every day except Sundays, which are left free. During the first week, morning and afternoon sessions are largely devoted to talks by staff members on the technique of the main forms of writing. During the second week, sessions are for the most part discussions of manuscripts submitted by contributing members. Individual interviews for criticism are mainly concentrated during the second week. The Conference aims at a balance between work and time for recreation and for making acquaintance both with people and with the country. All attendance at sessions is, of course, purely voluntary. The schedule is so arranged that members can attend all of the extensive discussion program if they wish.

Meals A schedule for breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be announced. It is necessary to the operation of a school dining room that members should not expect to be served except during announced hours. Late breakfast and afternoon and evening snacks may be obtained for a small charge at the Conference club room.



Robert Frost at Bread Loaf

Services Bread Loaf has a summer post office. Members of the Conference should instruct correspondents to address them at Bread Loaf, Vermont. Taxi service is maintained to Middlebury, twelve miles away, where drugstores, banks, etc., are available.

Clothes and Climate The Conference session usually includes both warm, and cool to sharp weather. Members should come prepared for both. Informal dress is always appropriate, but dinner dresses are also appropriate on some occasions for those who wish to bring them.

Recreation Tennis, lawn games, and walks in the woods and mountains are available at or immediately about Bread Loaf. Horseback riding can usually be arranged for. Swimming in streams or at Lake Dunmore is at reasonable driving distance.

Note It will be appreciated if members do not bring radios. Dogs are not allowed in the dormitories. An outdoor parking space for automobiles is provided free of charge by the School.

The History of Bread Loaf

Bread Loaf Inn was opened as a hotel in the 1860's by Joseph Battell, who wrote books, bred Morgan horses and kept the Morgan stallion register, and believed in the preservation of forests. He acquired over thirty thousand acres of forest lands, and left this property, with the Inn, to Middlebury College as his residuary legatee. Most of the forest is now national park; the Inn is no longer a public hotel, but the living quarters of two of the Middlebury College Summer Schools, the Bread Loaf School of English in the early summer and the Writers' Conference during the last two weeks of August.

The Conference began in 1926 under the direction of John Farrar, who was succeeded in 1929 by Robert M. Gay. Theodore Morrison has been Director since 1932. The plan owes its origin to Mr. Farrar, then editor of the *Bookman*, who founded the Writers' Conference and directed its first three sessions. Another major force in creating and sustaining Bread Loaf, has been Robert Frost, who has been with the Conference from the beginning and continues to extend its dimension of height and depth today. Perhaps the most tangible evidence of its increasing usefulness has been the extent to which, in recent years, publishers, visiting writers, members of the Conference itself, and members of the staff have offered fellowships to Bread Loaf, believing that it has something to contribute to the writing of the future.





CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. *Contributors*

Those who wish to bring manuscripts to Bread Loaf for criticism by the staff should apply for admission as Contributors. Contributors are asked to submit, at the time of application, examples of the kind or kinds of writing of which they will later expect criticism at Bread Loaf.

2. *Auditors*

Those who do not wish to submit manuscripts should apply for admission as Auditors.

Auditors may attend all lectures and participate in all open discussions. They may not submit manuscripts for staff criticism; otherwise their privileges are in no way different from those of Contributors.

ADMISSION

Both Contributors and Auditors are subject to selection. The basis of admission for Contributors will be the examples of their work they submit with their applications. First choice will be given to those who, in the judgment of a preliminary reader, show professional promise. But inexperienced or beginning writers will be admitted if the preliminary reader considers that they are likely to profit by the criticism of the staff. The basis of admission for Auditors will be any evidence the applicant offers of serious literary interest, such as published work or active concern with writing or teaching.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Write for an application blank to the Secretary of the Summer Schools, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.

2. Return the filled-out application to Richard L. Brown, Assistant Director in charge of admissions, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.

3. If you desire admission as a Contributor, forward to Mr. Brown examples of your published or unpublished work at the same time that you return your application blank. As much material may be submitted as you feel is necessary to represent fairly the range and quality of your work.

All manuscripts must be clearly typewritten, and will be returned only if accompanied by a reversible wrapper or self-addressed envelope and full postage or clear directions for return by express collect. A full and clear address should be written on all manuscripts as well as on all letters. Some time may pass before manuscripts can be returned, and it will therefore be an advantage to keep copies. The Conference assumes no responsibility for manuscripts lost in the mails or otherwise. All possible care will be taken to prevent such loss.

4. If you desire admission as an Auditor, return your application, without manuscript, to Richard L. Brown. Take care to indicate that you wish admission as an Auditor.

Applications will be accepted only from people who intend to be present for the whole session. No reduction of rates is offered for part-time attendance.

The restrictions of space at Bread Loaf, both in classrooms and living-quarters, make it impossible to accommodate friends or relatives of members. Attendance can be permitted *only* to regularly enrolled members.

Contributors should bring manuscripts in their hand luggage so that they may be submitted to the Director on registration day.

FEES

1. *For Contributors*

The charges for Contributors, including board, room, and tuition for the entire term, are from \$155 to \$205, depending on the kind of room desired or available.

2. *For Auditors*

The corresponding charges for Auditors are from \$130 to \$180.

3. A nonrefundable registration fee of \$15 will be called for by the Secretary of the Summer Schools at the time the applicant is notified that he has been accepted for membership. Rooms will be assigned only to those whose applications have been accepted and who have paid the registration fee. This fee will be credited against the applicant's total charges.

4. *Make all checks payable to Middlebury College.*



FELLOWS, 1951

Standing: *Hoke Norris and Mrs. Norris.*

Seated: *Robert De Vries, Jane Eklund, Doris Davis, O. Williams Pierce*

5. Duly accepted members who have paid the registration fee will be considered, after arriving at Bread Loaf, to have contracted for board and tuition, and will be required to abide by this arrangement. The Conference, however, reserves the right to request the withdrawal of any member.

Fellowships

The Conference offers a limited number of fellowships, paying all regular charges at Bread Loaf, but not travelling expenses. A committee of the Conference staff awards the fellowships, guided by the following policies:

1. Personal applications are not accepted.
2. To be considered for a fellowship, each candidate must be *nominated* by a magazine editor, publisher, literary agent, well-known writer, or college teacher. Nomination may be made informally in a letter to the Director, addressed to 17 Robinson Street, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.
3. Tangible achievement, such as published books or contributions to magazines, will be important evidence on a candidate's behalf. But it is also our purpose to discover when possible writers who may be expected to succeed professionally, but whose work is still in manuscript.
4. All nominations, together with supporting manuscripts or published work, should be in the Director's hands by May 15.

The Conference fellowship system began in 1934. A partial list of our fellows, with the firms or individuals that nominated them, includes: James Still (Viking Press); Robert Francis (Macmillan); Eudora Welty (Katherine Anne Porter); Carson McCullers (Houghton Mifflin); Dilys Bennett Laing (Duell, Sloan, and Pearce); A. B. Guthrie, Jr. (*Atlantic Monthly*); Esther Carlson (Paul Reynolds and Richard Wright); David Davidson (Random House); Robert Mende (Rinehart); Major Andrew C. Geer, USMC, and Lieutenant Arnold S. Lott, USN (U. S. Navy fellows); Era Bell Thompson (*Negro Digest*); Doris Davis (William Sloane Associates); Hoke Norris (Lotos Club of New York).



Interior of Library



Richard Scowcroft confers with a Contributor about her short stories

Dates

The Conference begins with the noon meal on Wednesday, August 13. Registration will take place Wednesday afternoon, and the first formal meeting will be that evening.

Wednesday, August 27, is the last day of scheduled work. For those who cannot conveniently leave Wednesday night, breakfast and luncheon will be served on Thursday, August 28. For students arriving and leaving by train or bus, taxis will be available for the trip between Bread Loaf and Middlebury, at the student's expense. The cost of the taxi fare is divided among the occupants of the cab. Baggage which arrives on or before August 13 will be transported free of charge from Middlebury to Bread Loaf.

Members traveling by train or bus should buy tickets for Middlebury, Vermont.



Tamarack



Bread Loaf, Vermont



